

The Resurrection of Christ

Reasons to Celebrate the Resurrection

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➤ The Resurrection: Abraham's Faith

- Abraham's faith was tested when God asked him to take his son Isaac to be given as an offering [Gen 22:1-10].
- God saw Abraham's faith and provided an alternative offering [Gen 22:11-14].
- But Abraham knew that, even if he was not stopped, God could resurrect his son Isaac [Heb 11:17-19].

➤ The Resurrection: The Sign of Jonah

- When the Pharisees asked for a sign from Jesus authenticating who He was, He told them they would be given the sign of Jonah [Matt 12:38-40].
- This was clearly a reference to His resurrection [Matt 16:21].
- The resurrection declared that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God [Rom 1:4].

➤ The Resurrection: Gospel Truth

- The resurrection is a central part of the gospel message [1 Cor 15:3-4].
- If Jesus had not been resurrected, then His claim to be the Christ (Messiah) would have been invalidated [Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:24-32; 13:34-37] and our faith in Him would be worthless [1 Cor 15:13-17].

➤ The Resurrection: Power Demonstrated

- The resurrection demonstrates the power of God which is now present in every believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit to help us have victory over the flesh [Rom 8:11-13].
- Water baptism is the identification of the believer with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection along with the associated freedom from slavery to sin [Rom 6:1-7].

➤ The Resurrection: Historical Fact

- Jesus Christ spoke many times about His own resurrection [Matt 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:22-23; 26:31-32; Mark 9:9; 10:33-34; John 2:19-22].
- The fact of the resurrection is affirmed by the Scriptures [Luke 24:1-49] and by the Holy Spirit who convicts lost sinners of their unrighteousness and the righteousness of Christ [John 16:5-22].

➤ The Resurrection: Conundrum Solved

- The resurrection of Jesus made it possible for Him to fulfill two seemingly contradictory prophecies – the suffering servant [Isa 52:13-53:10] and the glorified king [1 Pet 1:10-11].
- Because Jesus has been physically raised, there can be two advents and at His second coming He will establish His kingdom on earth [Isa 9:6-7].

➤ The Resurrection: Everyone Resurrected

- The resurrection of Jesus is the basis for the resurrection of all the dead.
- Christ is the firstborn of the resurrection [Col 1:18], so we can be confident that we will be resurrected when He comes [1 Cor 15:20-23].
- By this we can also know that unbelievers will be resurrected to face judgment [Acts 24:14-15; John 5:28-29].

➤ The Resurrection: Curse Reversed

- The resurrection of our physical bodies is part of the miraculous reversal of the devastating effects of Adam's sin for all who believe in Christ [1 Cor 15:21-22; Rom 5:12-19].
- The promise of our glorious resurrection should remove the fear of death – another consequence of the fall of Adam – for those who believe [Heb 2:9-15].

➤ The Resurrection: A Living Hope

- Since we know that we will be united with Christ in His resurrection [Rom 6:5], our new birth ought to provide us with a “living” hope [1 Pet 1:3, 13, 20-21].
- This hope will motivate us to live godly lives [1 John 3:2-3].
- If our lives demonstrate this hope, we will be powerful witnesses for Christ [1 Pet 3:15].